

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00765 300810Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----010936 300826Z /15

P 300535Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4374  
INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 1020  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T MUSCAT 0765

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP PEPR US YS  
SUBJEQT: PROPOSED DELEGATION TO PDRY

REF: STATE 131114

1. CHARGE MAY 29 BRIEFED MR. SADEK SULAIMAN, CHIEF OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ABOUT U.S. APPROACH TO PDRY THROUGH BRITISH PROPOSING DELEGATION TO ADEN. SULAIMAN TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND WAS INTENTLY INTERESTED, SAYING HE WOULD  
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REPORT THE NEWS TO HIS SUPERIORS AT ONCE. HE PROMISED TO STRESS POINTS WHICH CHARGE HIGHLIGHTED THAT VISIT, IF IT TAKES PLACE, WILL BE AT WORKING LEVEL AND WILL BE EXPLORATORY AND NON-COMMITTAL. HE SAID THAT IF HIS SUPERIORS HAVE ANY COMMENTS TO CONVEY TO USG, HE WOULD CONTACT CHARGE IMMEDIATELY. MEANWHILE, HE OFFERED FOLLOWING PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS:  
(A) ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, SULTAN QABOOS GAVE HIS BLESSING TO

SAUDI INITIATIVE TO PDRY, AND PRESUMABLY THE SAME OMANGOV SUPPORT WOULD APPLY TO THIS AMERICAN INITIATIVE. THERE IS CERTAINLY VALUE IN HAVING A USG PRESENCE IN ADEN, TO SEE IF PDRY BEHAVIOR CAN THEREBY BE INFLUENCED TOWARD MODERATION.

(B) HAVING SAID THAT, HOWEVER, SULAIMAN WISHED EMPHASIZE BELIEF THAT THE PDRY IS INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN SOVIET STRATEGY. IT PARTICIPATED

IN THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF A FEW MONTHS AGO, AND THE NUMBER OF EAST GERMANS AND CUBANS IN THE PDRY IS GETTING LARGER. THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT THIS POSITION WILL CHANGE.

(C) THE PDRY IS VERY GOOD AT STRINGING OTHERS ALONG WITH PROMISES. THEY WERE FORTHCOMING TO THE SAUDIS AT FIRST, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT IN THE END THEY CONCEDED NOTHING IMPORTANT. MEANWHILE, THE SAUDIS OFFERED THEM CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AID. THE AMERICANS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE THE SAME EXPERIENCE. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THE PDRY ASKS THE USG FOR AID.

(D) SULAIMAN FEARED THAT WASHINGTON IS BEING "TOO EAGER" IN ITS QUEST FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ADEN. "IF YOU ARE TOO EAGER ABOUT SOMETHING, THE OTHER SIDE SENSES YOUR EAGERNESS." THIS ENCOURAGES THE OTHER SIDE TO PLAY GAMES WITH YOU.

2. CHARGE PROMISED TO KEEP SULAIMAN INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS INITIATIVE. SULAIMAN APPRECIATED THIS AND SAID HE WOULD HOPE TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (A) ADEN'S RESPONSE TO THE USG REQUEST THROUGH THE BRITISH AND (B), ASSUMING THE STATE DEPARTMENT TEAM ACTUALLY GOES TO ADEN, WHAT SORT OF REACTION  
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IT GETS FROM THE PDRY AUTHORITIES WHILE IT IS THERE. SULAIMAN ALSO ASKED IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, EITHER POLITICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE, THAT USG WOULD LAY DOWN TO IMPROVED US-PDRY RELATIONS, OR IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIFIC "ELEMENTS THAT WOULD BE DECISIVE" AS WE CONTINUE TO PONDER WHETHER TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS INITIATIVE. CHARGE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER BUT PROMISED TO CONVEY THE QUESTION TO WASHINGTON AND GIVE HIM ANY REPLY THAT COMES BACK.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SULAIMAN LEANED OVER BACKWARDS TO TAKE A BALANCED APPROACH TO THIS BRIEFING, CHARGE HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION SULAIMAN WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE NEWS AND FOUND IT DISQUIETING. HE OF COURSE ALREADY KNEW OF MEETING LAST FALL BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER, AND HE ALSO PROFESSED TO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT CONGRESSMAN FINDLAY'S TRIP. HE RAISED THE FINDLAY TRIP IN HIS COMMENTS AND WONDERED WHAT ROLE IT HAD PLAYED IN THIS USG DECISION.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, PEPR, US, YS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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